

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B- 4774

1. Name

Historic 305 - 329 South Chapel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 305 - 329 South Chapel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved: _____
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 300 block of S. Chapel St. was built up primarily with groups of c. 1850 - 1860 two-story, gable-roofed houses, some of which were later "updated" by the addition of Italianate-style cornices. 305-311 S. Chapel was built in the late 1880s in the late Italianate style, with shed roofs and wooden bracketed cornices.

305-311 S. Chapel is a row of four two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices built c. 1888. Originally, the facades were painted, now they are covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area was probably painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, once connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of fleur-de-lis shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have flat lintels and sills, but the formstone obscures whether they were originally wood or splayed brick. All of the original windows have been replaced with 1/1 sash. Doorways have a single-light transom and one original door survives, at 307, an Arts-and-Crafts-style door with glass panels articulated with narrow molding strips to form long vertical and small square panels. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by three concrete or brick steps.

Continuation sheet

313-329 S. Chapel St. is a group of nine two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main "alley" street. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

The houses are two stories in height, and each two-room deep house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are constructed in common bond, but most of the facades are now covered with formstone. The houses have simple brick corbelled cornices, but at 321-323 S. Chapel St. a bracketed Italianate cornice was added to the pair to give it a more up-to-date look, probably at the time the new group of houses was built at 305-311. Chimneys are located at the rear end of the kitchen addition.

Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, and brick sills. In some cases the first floor window has been replaced with a wider, more fashionable window with a stained glass transom. The remainder of the windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single light transom. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light transom, the entrances being reached by two brick or concrete steps.

The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1850 – 1860; 1888

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

313 – 329 S. Chapel St. are significant as being representative of a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s and 1860s to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. Houses sold for about \$500 - \$600 to mainly German-American craftsman and laborers, or rented for some \$8 a month. Most such houses were held as rental property and most were located along narrow alley streets, or along even narrower courts. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is much less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are quite tiny, with two small rooms on each floor and a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase.

305 - 311 S. Chapel Street is significant as representing the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Both groups of houses are still inhabited by working class residents.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

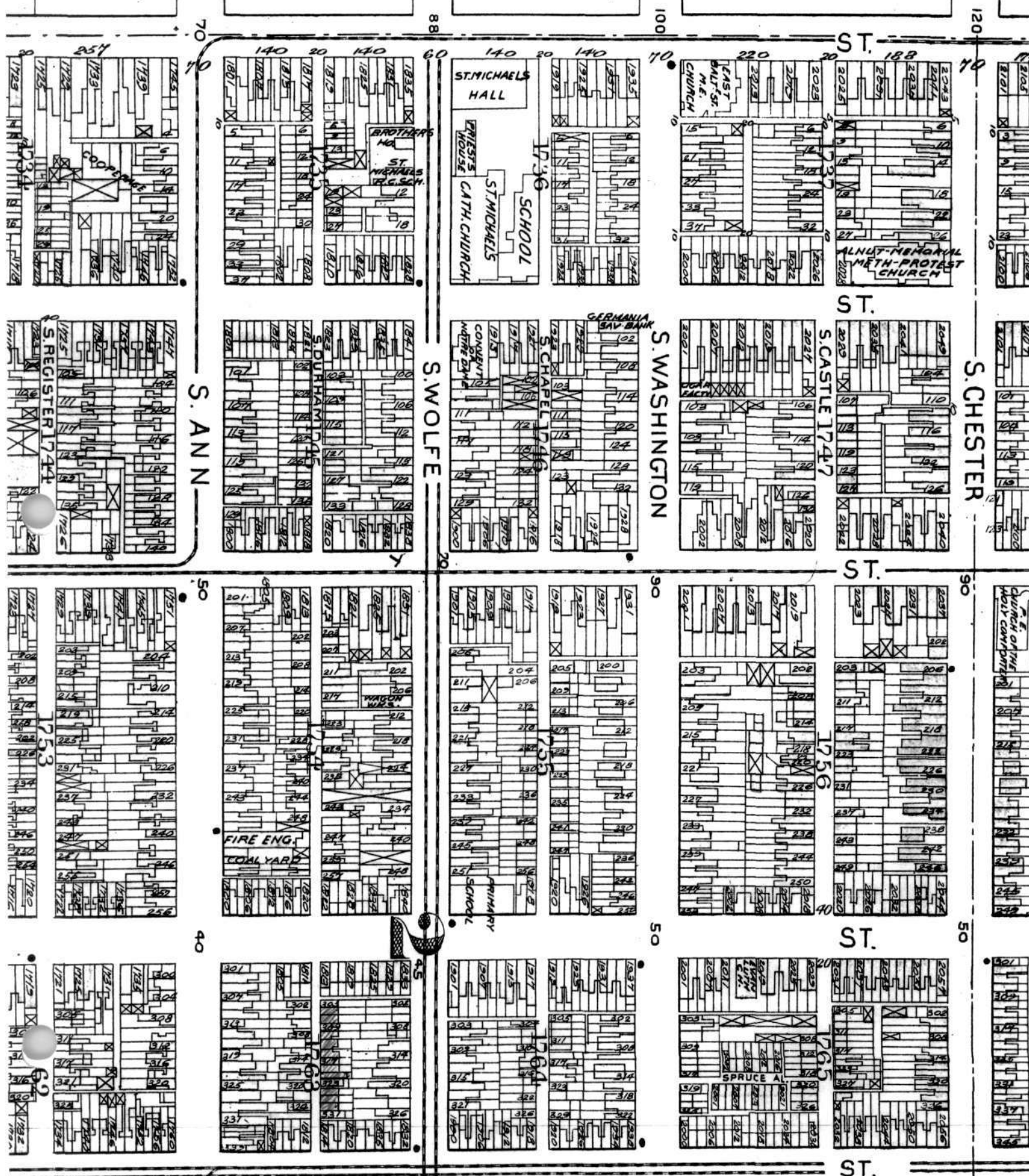
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

305-329 S. Chapel St
BALTO. MD

1906 City Atlas

N
↑

N



B-4774
305-329 S. Chapel Street
Block 1764 Lots 085-073
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





305-311 S Chapel

F77

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305-329 S. Chapel St.

BACRO. MD

C. Zeffone

6/97

7/7

MD

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307 S Chapel
PP7

B-4774

305-329 S. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Bellone

6/47

2/7

100
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313 S Chapel

FP7

B-4774

305-329 S. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

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[19] 687 0211 N 4 4 7



315 S Chapel

FP7

B-4774

305-329 S. Chapel St.

BACTO, MD

C. Belfrage

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180
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317-319 S Chapel

FP7

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305-329 S. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belgrave

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1173587 121 x 20 x 3



321-323 S Chapel

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305-329 S. Chapel St,

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325-329 S Chapel

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